

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have elected, with traverse, Claims 7-9. Claims 1-6 have been amended to depend, ultimately, on elected Claim 7, and thus should be rejoined and allowed with elected Claims 7-9.

Support for the amendment to Claim 7 is found at specification page 5, line 32. The amendment to Claim 9 clarifies this claim, as supported at specification page 20, lines 13-20. New Claim 10 find support at this same portion of the specification. New Claims 11-20 find support in the Examples. See, e.g., Example 1 at specification page 30, lines 16-20, Example 2 at page 32, lines 32-35, etc. No new matter has been entered.

The rejection of Claims 7, 8 and 9 over Hudson is traversed. Hudson relates to a polishing pad with incompressible, highly soluble particles suspended in a body (Abstract; see also column 4, lines 8-20). However, Hudson specifically controls the size of these particles to between approximately 0.1 and approximately 3 μm in diameter, more preferably between 0.5 and 1.5 μm in diameter. See column 4, lines 45-48.

Nothing in Hudson discloses or suggests the presently claimed particles having an average particle diameter of from 10 to 90 μm . Such a size is unprecedented in view of Hudson, especially because the polishing properties of the resultant pad would be expected to be quite poor in view of the presence of such large particles. However, and as shown in the several Examples of record, Applicants' polishing pad with its particular combination of elements in fact provides excellent results. Because Hudson does not disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed polishing pad, the rejection over this reference should be withdrawn.

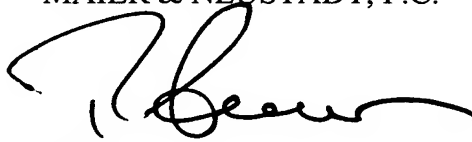
Application No. 10/822,815

Reply to Office Action of November 7, 2006

Accordingly, and in view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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